

A BARREN SHORE

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creeks and beaches and rocks ; it is  
made like  
any other, and I don't suppose it will  
sink from  
under our feet. .As for the question of  
leaving  
it, or of settling on it, we will  
decide that  
later."

" Anyhow, Block, I hope we shall not be  
obliged  
to put to sea again before the  
captain has had  
a little time to rest and recover. So if  
the spot  
is deserted, if it has resources to  
offer, and we  
run no risk of falling into the hands of  
natives,  
we must stay here some time."

" Deserted it certainly seems to be so  
far," the  
boatswain replied, " and to my  
thinking, it is  
better it should be."

" I think so, too, Block, and I think  
that we  
shall be able to renew our provisions  
by fishing,  
if we can't by hunting."

" As you say, sir. Then, if the game  
here only  
amounts to sea-birds which one can't  
live on,  
we will hunt in the forests and plains  
inland and  
make up our fishing that way. Without  
guns, of  
course---"

" What brutes they were, Block, not  
even to  
leave us ,any firearms ! "

" They were perfectly right—in their  
own in-

terests, you understand/' the  
boatswain replied.  
" Before we let go I could not have  
resisted the  
temptation to shoot at the head, of  
that rascal  
Borrupt—the treacherous hound ! "